

MAPLE GROVE
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

Weaver Lake, Elm Creek Special Use Park
5:30 p.m.

Special Meeting

The Special Meeting was called to order by Chair, Bill Lewis at 5:30 p.m.

Board Members Present

Board Members present were: Chair, Bill Lewis, and Board Members Terry Sharp, Deb Syhre, Ken Helvey and Kelly Cunningham.

Board Members Absent

Board Members absent were: Vice Chair, John Ferm and Board Member, Troy Nygaard.

Also Present

Also present were: Chuck Stifter, Director; Mark Saari, Superintendent of Recreation; Lisa Jost, Community Center Manager; Patty Anderson, Administrative Supervisor; Jim Knutson, Finance Director; Scott Roberts, Park Supervisor; Jeff Evenson, Superintendent of Parks and Planning; and Jeanne Vestal, Recreation Facilities Supervisor.

Weaver Lake Park

The Board toured Weaver Lake Park, where staff highlighted the bathroom project that was completed last year and the upgrades being done to the ballfields. The Director detailed the work being done on the fields noting the new turf and upgraded irrigation system. He stated the upgrades to the three fields were being done in cooperation with OMGAA and noted their financial contribution. The Director indicated that OMGAA would like to see further improvements to include dugouts and a concession stand.

The group toured the picnic site where the Director noted the accessibility challenges faced by the fact that it is on a hill. He indicated that providing better accessibility is something they may want to look at long term. The Board also viewed the shelter building and staff explained the various functions of the building. Responding to a question, Jeanne Vestal noted the number of users for the beach and the park. There was also discussion about larger events that are held there such as the Triathlon, the MGCO Halloween Event and large church baptisms. There was discussion about the concession stand that

operates in the summer and how the location of it poses some challenges.

The Board viewed the deck which the Director noted is up for replacement in the next few years and will probably need to be redesigned. He indicated the question becomes if they should look at a master plan for the whole site and then implement the place in phases.

Board Member Cunningham raised a question about access for paddleboards. She noted it is difficult to have children in the beach area and to have children wanting to paddleboard.

Elm Creek Special Use Park/Arboretum

The Board toured the Elm Creek Special Use Park/Arboretum. Patty Anderson highlighted the current carry-on boat access and the new bike tune up station. She noted the Angel of Hope area and reviewed the changes that would be made based on the new Master Plan. She detailed where the walk way would be and the new circle area that would include more sponsorship bricks. Staff noted that public meetings were planned to present the new plan.

The group walked the trail along the creek and Patty Anderson pointed out the areas for new plantings, more enhanced landscaping and an interpretive area. There was discussion about the uniqueness of this park and the Board's desire to keep it as natural as possible. The Board continued their tour by walking to the dam. Patty Anderson noted the plan called for enhanced signage at the north entrance.

Adjournment

Motion made by Board Member Helvey, seconded by Board Member Sharp to adjourn.

Upon call for the question, on a voice vote, there were five ayes and no nays. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Foggia, Recording Secretary and
Chuck Stifter, Director
Parks & Recreation Board
City of Maple Grove